

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 L-03 H-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 COME-00 AGR-20

RSR-01 /141 W

----- 082580

R 290922Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7660

UNCLAS MANILA 9925

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EGEN, RP

SUBJ: VIRATA STATEMENT ON LAUREL-LANGLEY

1. IN HIS FIRST PRESS CONFERENCE SINCE ARRIVING FROM U.S. THREE WEEKS AGO, SECRETARY OF FINANCE VIRATA STATED THAT TREATY PROPOSED BY PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO REPLACE LAUREL-LANGLEY WILL "NOT BE AN OVERALL COVER" BUT WILL SPECIFY ACTS TO MUTUALLY BENEFIT FILIPINOS AND AMERICANS. TWO CRUCIAL ASPECTS TO BE EMBODIED IN ANY TREATY, HE STATED, WILL BE TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

2. VIRATA SUGGESTED WITH RESPECT TO TRADE THAT U.S. POSITION MAY BE SPELLED OUT CLEARLY IF TRADE REFORM ACT EMBODYING GSP IS PASSED BY U.S. CONGRESS. IN MEANTIME, PHILIPPINES IS (SIC) NEGOTIATING WITH U.S. IN GATT CONTEXT. CERTAIN ADVERSE EFFECTS OF LAUREL-LANGLEY REQUIRE GRANTING OF PREFERENTIAL TARIFF FOR PHILIPPINE GOODS, HE CONTINUED, AS ILLUSTRATED BY PHILIPPINE PLYWOOD, WHICH BEARS 16 PERCENT DUTY AS COMPARED TO 10 PERCENT FOR OTHER COUNTRIES, AND CORDAGE, WHICH RESTRICTED BY QUOTA.

3. IN AREA OF INVESTMENTS, VIRATA STATED AMERICAN INVESTMENTS WILL BE TREATED LIKE THOSE OF OTHER FOREIGN NATIONALS BUT UNCLASSIFIED

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TREATY WILL SET FORTH IN DETAIL HOW AMERICANS MAY EXPLORE

FOR BUSINESS PROSPECTS, HOW THEIR INVESTMENTS MAY BE ADMITTED, OWNERSHIP OF MOVABLE PROPERTIES, AND ACCESS TO COURTS, AMONG OTHER THINGS.

4. VIRATA SPECULATED THAT APPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN MAY HASTEN MEETING BETWEEN PHILIPPINES AND U.S. ON LAUREL-LANGLEY SUCCESSOR, AGREEMENT OBSERVING, HOWEVER, THAT NO DATE HAS YET BEEN SET.
PURNELL

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NNN

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